

victim IMPACT

A Newsletter to Advance Rights & Services for Crime Victims in Massachusetts

Volume 3, No. 2

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Male Survivors and the Clergy Sexual Abuse Crisis

By Dave Shannon

Several months ago, the nation began to learn of the horror of the sexual abuse crisis in the Roman Catholic Church. Each day, more details emerge that startle and shock us. We, as service providers, are challenged to pause and reflect on these

events, and to respond in ways that publicly and forcefully demonstrate our commitment to the many survivors of this crisis.

How easily the phrase "clergy sexual abuse scandal" has integrated itself into our lexicon. As we continue to discuss the crisis and debate the response of the Roman Catholic Church, we must remember that at the center of this tragedy are people whose lives have been shattered. It is critical that we not sanitize or minimize the crisis through our language. We need to be quite clear what this "scandal" is truly about—the rape and sexual assault of children.

Services for Clergy Abuse Survivors

Those of us who work with survivors of sexual violence felt compelled to directly respond to the current crisis through services that meet the unique needs of these survivors. We recognized the need to examine existing services and offer specialized and focused support that reflects the special dynamics

of clergy sexual abuse. As a result, the Victims of Violence Program (VOV) of the Cambridge Health Alliance began offering a group for parents of survivors. In addition, the Violence Recovery Program (VRP) of Fenway Community Health collaborated with the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC) to offer a free, 10-week group for male survivors. Gina Scaramella, LICSW, and I co-lead the survivors' group, which is open to men of all sexual orientations and is an extension of a group for male survivors of adult sexual assault and rape that we have led for over three years.

The group for those men raped or assaulted by clergy is similar to our group for adult survivors in that we discuss issues of disclosure, trust, anger, intimacy, masculinity, sexual identity, and relationships. We tailored this group to reflect the specific experiences of childhood survivors while incorporating discussions of trauma responses

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Victim IMPACT

is a quarterly newsletter to advance rights and services for crime victims and to promote greater awareness about the impact of victimization on the individual and the community. It is published by the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA) and the Victim and Witness Assistance Board, and is distributed free of charge to the victim rights community. We welcome submissions and article ideas from crime victims and survivors, service providers, criminal justice professionals, and the general public. The "Victim Voices" feature is intended to be a forum for victims and survivors to describe their personal experiences of victimization or the emotional impact of being a crime victim. In some articles, names and identifying information may be changed to ensure the confidentiality of victims. MOVA reserves the right to edit all submissions. No financial compensation is provided for the publication of articles or stories. We encourage the reproduction of any articles contained in this newsletter, provided that proper attribution is given to both MOVA and the author.

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A Message from the Director

The summer months seemed fleeting, but I hope that they were restful for everyone. Much has happened since I first addressed you in this newsletter, all of which has kept me focused on the vital needs of crime victims, their loved ones, and those who respond to them in the aftermath. I started my position at MOVA at a very busy time. Plans were being finalized for the 2002 Victim Rights Conference and I experienced, for the first time, a behind-the-scenes view of the remarkable work of MOVA staff and many others that helped make the conference such a success. It was great to see so many of you there and we look forward to your input as we plan for the next one. We then moved right into the VOCA grant process, including the review of proposals for the supplemental federal funds designated for services to the families of 9/11 victims and crisis responders. Our collaboration with DMH, American Red Cross, Catholic Charities, United Way, and the Offices of Attorney General Tom Reilly, Senator Ted Kennedy, and Congressman Marty Meehan allowed for the development and successful implementation of a 24-hour hotline for the anniversary week of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

MOVA staff has continued to provide direct crisis intervention and referrals to increasing numbers of victims of various types of crimes, including a large number of contacts from clergy sexual abuse survivors, families of 9/11 victims, and more. In addition, I have had the privilege of being appointed to the Governor's Task Force on Sexual Assault and Abuse, and heard testimony from survivors and providers at several public hearings across the state. This testimony contained powerful illustrations of the devastating impact of sexual violence; of the strength and courage survivors have to cope, heal, persevere, and advocate. It also highlighted how far we have come but also how much we still need to do. I, together with the rest of the members of the Task Force, am wholly committed to ensuring that the testimony given will help significantly improve our sexual assault intervention and prevention efforts. This is perhaps daunting at a time of severe fiscal crisis, but it is critical nonetheless.

Finally, this newsletter will arrive in your mailboxes after we have individually and collectively experienced the remembrances and reflections associated with the one-year anniversary of 9/11. The horrifying acts of terrorism on that day directly impacted countless families in Massachusetts and elsewhere. It touched all of us deeply and continues to have profound effects. For me, it conjures up the intense sorrow of the death of loved ones, other acts of violence, hatred, and suffering that people endure daily here and around the globe; and it starkly reminds me of the fragility and preciousness of life. It is a lot to bear for all of us. However, I feel bolstered by the courage of victims, survivors, rescuers, and helpers, on that day and every day. It is profoundly humbling and inspiring and, indeed, strengthens my resolve to work collaboratively to advance our mutual efforts on behalf of crime victims.

Best wishes,



Janet E. Fine



Tom Reilly, Attorney General

Chairman, Victim and Witness Assistance Board



Throughout my career as a prosecutor, I have fought hard for crime victims and have tried to view every case through the victim's perspective.

It is critical for

crime victims and homicide survivors to have a strong voice in the criminal justice system and to receive the services and resources they need to help them.

As Attorney General, I continue to work on issues that further assist victims of crime and their families. The day after the terrorist attacks on America, I determined that families whose relatives were on the two Boston flights were eligible for assistance under my office's Victim Compensation and Assistance Program. My staff in the Victim Compensation and Assistance Division continue to work with families, helping them cope with the aftermath of this

devastating event as they apply for assistance available under the program.

My office is equally committed to protecting the state's elders from fraud and abuse. We have successfully prosecuted elder-related cases involving nursing home abuse, telemarketing fraud, charity scams and fraudulent home improvement contractors. It is important to provide resources to the senior community and our Elder Protection Unit in the Public Protection Bureau is devoted to that mission.

I have personally worked for nearly 20 years to protect children from abuse, including sexual abuse by members of the clergy. As the former District Attorney for Middlesex County, I oversaw the investigation and prosecution of numerous cases that involved horrific violence inflicted on children, including homicide and the physical and sexual abuse of children. As Attorney General, I have continued to make child protection a priority. Since January, when the magnitude of the

clergy sexual abuse crisis became apparent, my Office has been engaged in a comprehensive investigation of the years of abuse of children by clergy. We also worked closely with the Legislature to pass a law requiring religious officials to report allegations of sexual abuse of children to civil authorities. We will continue to work in the weeks and months ahead to find ways to make sure that no child is ever abused again by a member of the clergy. And if another child is sexually abused today or any day in the future, my Office is working hard to ensure the Archdiocese has policies and procedures to respond in ways that best serve victims and their families.

Protection of all crime victims has been and remains an important priority for me, one which I will continue to diligently and aggressively pursue. I'm proud to serve as Chairman for the Victim and Witness Assistance Board. The work of the Board and MOVA is vital to serving all victims in the Commonwealth.

**Evelyn Tobin,
Victim/Public Member**



My daughter, Kathleen Dempsey, was murdered in her home by an unknown assailant on August 23, 1992. She was 31 years old, and about to

begin graduate school. Kathy was my oldest child and only daughter. We were as close as mother and daughter can be. One of the last things we did together was to "play hookey" from our

respective jobs and spend a beautiful summer day at the seashore. We had a picnic on the rocks, strolled through the shops, and ended the day eating lobster-in-the-rough at Woodman's in Essex. Losing Kathy was losing a part of myself. I had envisioned growing old with her at my side. The loss was so deep and so profound that I questioned whether I could live out the rest of my life. In the midst of my grief, I recall actually facing the decision whether to live or die. In deciding to live, I knew that I had to live a life that meant something, not just to me and

my family. I knew I had to try to make a difference in other people's lives.

Before Kathy's murder, I had no need to know about victims' services. That was something other people had to deal with. After her death, I came to know all too much about victims' services. I knew that I needed some help to get through this awful trauma. I knew that I had to see, feel and touch other mothers who had lost a child, and know that they had survived it. I needed my husband and sons to have similar models for survival. We found a support group,

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OMEGA, which, literally, saved my life and enabled me to re-enter the world prepared to contribute. I remember asking how OMEGA was funded, since no one had asked me for payment for the vital service I received. I was told about MOVA and the VOCA funding. I volunteered to join the OMEGA board so that I could be of help to other families facing the same situation as mine had. Some of us who have “graduated” from OMEGA have stayed together and formed a group called ALPHA, which we hope will become another resource for families of homicide victims. We hope to be of assistance in reaching out to families and matching them with available resources, as well as creating a

speakers bureau to help to educate providers of services.

When I heard about the opening on the MOVA board, I felt that I had something to offer because of my professional background in public policy and advocacy (I am director of public policy for the YMCAs of Massachusetts,) and was appointed by the Governor in 1999.

Along the way, I met a group of people who were creating a memorial to homicide victims, The Garden of Peace, and joined that board as well. The Garden of Peace is well on the way to becoming reality as part of the plaza of the soon-to-be-renovated Saltonstall state office building.

These activities have enabled me to feel that I honor Kathy’s memory in my daily life, and to believe that it was worth my sticking around to see it through.

Yoko Kato,
Victim/Public Member



I am honored to be appointed to the Victim and Witness Assistance Board by Massachusetts Governor Jane Swift. As a surviving mother of a Domestic

Violence murder—my daughter Sherry, 23 years old, and her baby, 18 month old Cedric—I understand how important it is to be involved with victim assistance.

In the wake of a tragedy, most people are foreign to our court system, and they hear very unfamiliar vocabulary when facing a trial. In addition to the victim facing this difficult time in their life, they are also suffering grief and loss for their loved one. I was treated with dignity, respect, kindness and tenderness by the prosecutor and victim witness advocate who handled my case. Without them, I would not have

understood my rights as a victim. I would have drowned with uncontrollable grief. Two young lives had been taken away. In court, the prosecutor became voice to victims who no longer had voices, and fought for them.

Since January 11, 1993, my life has changed dramatically. I established the Memorial Scholarship of Sherry Morton and her son Cedric, a non-profit organization that helps battered mothers to regain their independence. The annual scholarship has aided sixteen people to attend college. I have worked for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, speaking to hospital staff about identifying victims of Domestic Violence. I have lectured at area schools and colleges, and I have been active on the Boards of several battered women’s groups and a men’s resource group.

In November of 1998, I traveled to Japan, where Domestic Violence and Sexual Harassment was not a crime. I spoke at many Domestic Violence prevention programs, thus becoming the

first victim to speak out in Japan. I returned to Japan in April 2000 with Northwestern District Attorney Elizabeth Scheibel and Assistant District Attorney Susan Loehn. Our mission was to spend an intense two weeks educating the Japanese government about issues of Domestic Violence. The government instituted its first domestic violence law in October 2001.

I now travel to Japan three times a year to educate society about Domestic Violence. I continue to work with the Japanese government, attorneys, social workers, public policy researchers, law school educators and various organizations to educate the next generation to understand Domestic Violence and its impact on human life.

In my opinion, the victim witness program and the work of MOVA are life savors for victims and survivors. I appreciate all the support given to me and my family, and I am proud to be on this team of great supporters.

Elizabeth Scheibel,
Northwestern District Attorney



I have been a prosecutor for twenty-two years and the District Attorney of the Northwestern District for the past nine years. As District Attorney, I over-

see the prosecution of crimes committed in Franklin and Hampshire Counties and the town of Athol.

Throughout my career as prosecutor, I have been exposed to the devastating effects that crime has on so many lives. As a result, I feel strongly that victims must be provided with information about the criminal justice system and an opportunity to express the impact

that the crime has had on them. The manner in which a victim is treated by law enforcement officials in the aftermath of a crime plays an important role in the healing process. Prosecutors are uniquely situated to bring a measure of justice to those individuals who have been victimized by criminals.

In the Northwestern District, we have developed a prosecution model that is adapted to the needs of our jurisdiction. Within that model, we emphasize specialization of prosecutors and training in challenging areas requiring expertise and sensitivity, including child abuse, domestic violence, and abuse of elders and persons with disabilities. In addition, we have emphasized community education and outreach as a means of reducing and,

in some cases, preventing crime. As District Attorney, I have been involved with legislation that establishes enhanced penalties for crimes committed against the more vulnerable members of our society.

My commitment to victims being involved in the criminal process is important not only in my work as District Attorney, but also as a member of the Victim and Witness Assistance Board. As a Board member, I am able to take victims' voices further by impacting policy statewide. My goals as a member of the Board are to see that all victims are treated with respect, to improve and enhance victims' rights, and to provide victims with the assistance they need, through programs, services and legislation.

Gerard Downing,
Berkshire District Attorney



I have served as District Attorney of Berkshire County since January 1991 and I am currently seeking reelection to a fourth term. Prior to my elec-

tion, I was an associate in a general practice firm for four years, and served as an Assistant District Attorney for seven years. As an Assistant, I was responsible for prosecuting criminal cases throughout Berkshire County in the District and Superior Courts. I served as District Court Coordinator, where I was responsible for the day-to-day management of the County's District Courts, and as Second Assistant District Attorney, and I was appointed to coordinate and manage the Berkshire County Drug Task Force.

I was born and raised in Pittsfield, the son of Mrs. Gertrude Downing and the late John F. Downing, Sr. I graduated from St. Joseph's High School, Providence College, and Suffolk University School of Law. I have been married for 26 years, and my wife Pamela and I make our home in Pittsfield with our children, Benjamin (21), a senior at Providence College, Margaret (19), a sophomore at Trinity College in Hartford, Nathaniel (17) and Nicholas (15). I am involved in a wide range of community service organizations in Pittsfield. I am a past chairman of St. Teresa's Parish Council and past President of the Catholic Youth Center Board of Directors, and I am active in local youth sports and educational activities.

I am also a member of the Berkshire Bar Association's Bench/Bar and Courthouse Expansion Committees and a member of the Massachusetts and Berkshire Bar

Associations. I have lectured and taught classes on criminal law, constitutional law and courtroom procedure. In addition, I am the President-Elect of the Massachusetts District Attorneys' Association and have served on the Board of Directors for MOVA since 1992.

My years on the Board have served to deepen my understanding of the importance of the protection and advancement of the rights of victims in our Commonwealth. Dignity, respect, information: simple requests for a person to make of the criminal justice system, especially when they have been suddenly, frighteningly and, perhaps, tragically thrust into its bewildering process. Being a part of the community of advocates which seeks to ensure that those basic needs are met each and every day has made service on the MOVA Board not only professionally rewarding, but personally gratifying.

Protecting Our Children



By Senator Marian Walsh

The sexual abuse of so many children by members of the clergy requires us to examine what protections we have in place and to consider what we can do to better protect children.

One important step forward is the creation of the crime of reckless endangerment to children. This crime, created by a bill I filed this year, allows those who knowingly place children at risk of abuse to be prosecuted for “reckless endangerment,” even before a child is actually harmed.

Under the law, a person who “wantonly or recklessly engages in conduct that creates a substantial risk of serious bodily injury or sexual abuse to a child or

This law distinguishes Massachusetts from many other jurisdictions in one key aspect—it explicitly addresses the risk of sexual abuse.

wantonly or recklessly fails to take reasonable steps to alleviate such risk” may face up to 2 1/2 years imprisonment.

A person recklessly fails to take reasonable steps to alleviate a risk when he or she becomes aware of the risk, the law imposes a duty to act in regard to it, and that person either through inaction or improper action fails to act in the manner that an ordinary person in the same situation would act to alleviate the risk.

This law differs from the so-called “mandated reporting law,” which requires specific classes of people, such as police, physicians and teachers, to report to the Department of Social Services any child whom they believe has suffered physical or emotional injury as a result of abuse or neglect. The focus of the mandated reporting law is on intervening and thwarting

the abuse of children and comes under the umbrella of public welfare statutes. The aim of the reckless endangerment statute is to create an avenue of criminal prosecution for those who knowingly place children in harm’s way.

Massachusetts already has laws that criminalize other forms of reckless conduct, such as reckless driving. We also penalize a custodial adult who recklessly allows another to commit assault and battery on a child. To date, at least thirty-one states, including Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York, maintain some variation of the crime of reckless endangerment. This law distinguishes Massachusetts from many other jurisdictions in one key aspect—it explicitly addresses the risk of sexual abuse. The bill was passed unanimously by both the state Senate and House of Representatives and signed by Governor Jane Swift on September 12, 2002. The new law goes into effect December 10, 2002.

We have a responsibility to protect our children, and our awareness of that responsibility is expanding. This bill puts everyone on notice that protecting children is a priority and we will prosecute anyone who recklessly puts them at risk.

Senator Marian Walsh is a Democrat who represents the Norfolk and Suffolk Senatorial District. Senator Walsh was elected to the House of Representatives in 1988 and to the State Senate in 1992. The Senator is a graduate of the Newton College of the Sacred Heart and holds a Master’s Degree from Harvard Divinity School and a Juris Doctor from Suffolk University Law School. Senator Walsh is currently the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Taxation.

Newly-Released Prisoners Commit More Crimes

Newly-released inmates committed new crimes at a higher rate in 1994 than a decade earlier, according to a report from the U.S. Department of Justice. The study found that 67 percent of inmates released from state prisons in 1994 committed at least one serious new crime within three years, a rate five percent higher than among those inmates released in 1983. The number of times prisoners had been arrested was the best predictor of whether they would commit more crimes after being released. Access the report, *Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 1994*, at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/rpr94.htm.

Hate Crimes Against Massachusetts Jews Increase

Reported hate crimes against Jews increased 39 percent in Massachusetts following the events of September 11, according to a report released by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of New England. Though the total number of incidents for the year was comparable to the previous year's tally, incidents spiked immediately after the terrorist attacks. Most incidents involved leafleting of propaganda materials attributed to white supremacy groups. Massachusetts ranked third in the country last year for anti-Semitic crimes. The report does not represent a comprehensive study, but focuses on those incidents reported to and verified by the ADL.

Rape Victims Often Left Untreated for STDs, Pregnancy Prevention

Half of all U.S. women seeking medical care after a rape do not receive the recommended treatments to prevent pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases, researchers reported. Only 20 percent of rape victims seen in emergency rooms were given emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy. Forty-two percent were not tested for STDs and were given no antibiotics. The report, published by the *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, analyzed data from the National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

September 11 Victims Need \$768M to Cover Losses

Meeting ongoing needs of those impacted by September 11 will cost \$768 million over the next year, according to a consultant's report. Job and income losses created the greatest immediate needs, but mental health costs are expected to be highest in the long term. An estimated 70,000 workers lost jobs and income as a result of the terrorist attacks. Families who lost loved ones saw incomes drop an average of 40 percent. The consulting firm McKinsey & Company prepared the report for a nonprofit consortium of charities working to help coordinate private assistance for victims.

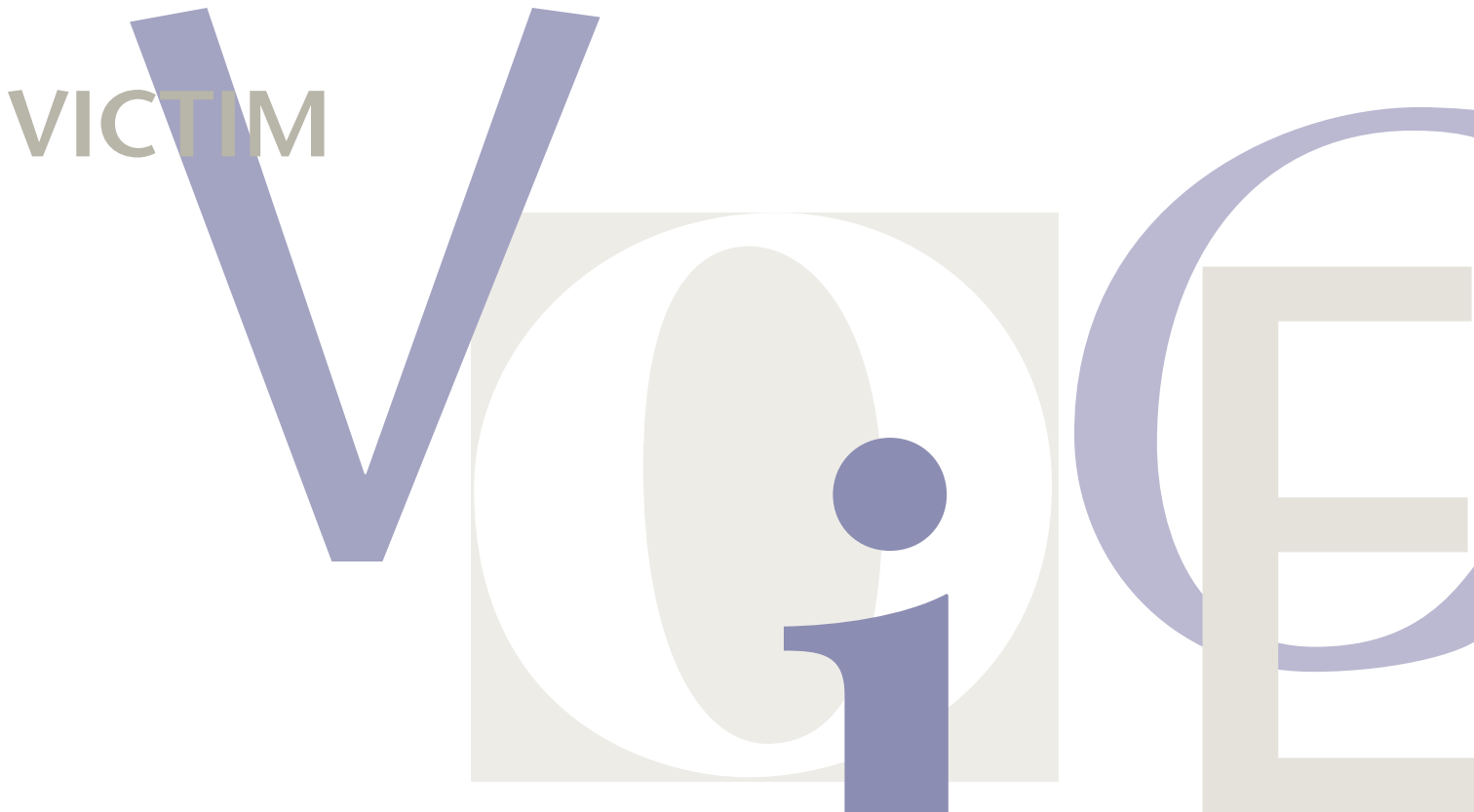
Sexual Violence Impacts States Financially

Rape and sexual assault cost the state of Michigan more than \$6.5 billion in 1996, most of it in intangible costs, according to a study in the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. Sex-offense homicide cost the state \$18 million. Tangible costs of sexual violence include loss of economic productivity and costs associated with medical and mental health care, insurance administration, criminal investigations, prosecutions, and corrections. Intangible costs include the psychological pain and suffering of survivors and the generalized fear of victimization in society. The report, *The Rape Tax: Tangible and Intangible Costs of Sexual Violence*, questions the 2000 Supreme Court ruling in *Brzonkala vs. Morrison* that rape is a noneconomic crime which does not affect interstate commerce.

Women in U.S. at Higher Risk for Murder

American women are five times more likely to be murdered than women in 24 of the world's wealthiest nations combined, and the availability of guns may be a factor, according to findings published in the *Journal of the American Medical Women's Association*. The rate of firearm slayings in the United States was 11 times higher than the average for the rest of the nations surveyed, while rates for rape, assault and burglary were more or less equal across most of the 25 countries. Between 4,000 and 5,000 women are murdered each year in the United States.

The Aftermath of Clergy Abuse



Boston has seen revelation after revelation about the sexual abuse that some priests are known to have done over the past 40 to 50 years.

When I was in my teens, a priest molested me. The facts have been coming out for a while about others' experiences, and my thoughts and emotions are tuned in to this part of my life. Paul Shanley was a priest at Saint Patrick's in Stoneham and he molested me when I was perhaps 15 years old. Although what he did was not a rape, it made me, as a 15-16 year-old fervent Catholic, who was struggling with all the sexual tensions and questions of youth, very scared, confused, and isolated.

I now see him as a criminal with a collar. He was a pathological liar, using his power to sexually exploit children. We were nothing but targets and trophies to him. He did not inflict the worst of what was possible, but he wounded me deeply.

As more facts become evident, I feel that the Church's hierarchy abused the Roman Catholic Church's power in order to cover its shame.

That some of the Catholic hierarchy dismiss the sexual abuse of some priests as an "American problem" or "media feeding frenzy" indicates to me an institutional abuse of power. In my opinion, the bishops must agree to devote themselves to the truth regarding sexual abuse by some priests, accept responsibility, make an accounting of past acts, make amends to victims, and ensure the protection of innocent children in their care in the future. To the extent that they follow up words with action that shows true contrition, I can forgive.

Many of us were polluted by individuals' actions and inactions, but that is not the end of my story. My personal beliefs have changed through the years. They help make sense of how I understand things, and help me. I have had a very good life. My second

and very fine marriage, close friends and family all have been my good fortune. I've been sober 22 years, and most remarkably, I am living in a time where some justice for Shanley's victims is at hand.

Over the years I've had several detours: drug and alcohol abuse, failed relationships, recurring bouts of depression, and divorce. I can't determine the extent to which my encounter with

Shanley provoked or contributed to my troubles, but there's some effect. I wish I could have erased what happened, but my shame, guilt, and confusion persisted for years. With the revival in the news of Shanley's face and deeds, fear and dread colored how I saw others' behavior towards me.

Recently, I became very angry, loud, and profane at work. In a brief moment I felt belittled and bullied. These feelings opened an emotional scab, and I lost control. Through a closed office door, my co-workers heard me yelling, and they felt disturbed, upset, and indeed, threatened. The next day I was told that I could not return to work, and that a psychologist would evaluate me.

Two weeks later, after reading the psychologist's report, I had to face the reality of my anger. If I ignored its source, the least of my problems would be that I would lose work that I found rewarding and satisfying.

I wanted my life back. I had to know what in me caused me to lose control like that, so that I would never feel that angry again. I did not (and do not) want ever to hit or threaten anyone. I did not want to jeopardize my wife's belief in me, our love and our marriage. The doubt and sadness in her question, "Did I marry a stranger?" made what I had to do more clear and important.

The peace and love my wife and I have was not yet irretrievably shattered. But, my anger brought turmoil and sadness that overshadowed the best part of my life. I told a small number of family and friends what happened. I sorted things out and started facing the truth. I am one of the luckier victims of abuse. I haven't shut down, or made my life a course of self-injury and neglect, and I believed that I could change.

As I went through the skillful and caring therapy to understand my anger, I uncovered the truth of the effect of Shanley's abuse on me. Yelling and anger in self-defense might have served me well perhaps 40 years ago. But at work, as I felt threatened in a situation that came nowhere near, nor resembled in any way what Shanley did to me, I called on that response to protect me. Also, I learned and re-learned that I can experience a sense of worth, the ability to love, and see my friends' and family's love for me without protecting it with hypersensitivity, defensiveness, and anger.

I wanted to cure my sickness and most of all to get well, feel well, and do well. I had to empty out the ill, experience a void perhaps without harming others, or myself, and then create something more worthwhile. I needed to be patient, compassionate, and accept mistakes as inevitable. There was lots of work to do.

A friend wrote me, "By not telling others of your situation you are buying into guilt and shame - which you must let go of ... You are great in giving of yourself to others, now is the time to trust and let others give to you ... you are loved regardless of how you judge yourself as having [made mistakes]..."

As I faced the effects of Shanley's abuse, my friend's words became a source of courage and comfort to me. As I reached out and found others' compassion and understanding, I became better at finding these gifts in myself and for myself.

Shanley's abuse did not destroy the best in me. I can take life's pleasures as they come, and understand that sadness is not a burden, but a chance to be with others and to share and help them, and in turn, have them help me. In my second marriage we find joy in the good times, and help each other in the difficult times.

Someone once said that living well is the best revenge. Parts of my life have been difficult and troubling but not unendurable. As a survivor, I've tried to keep my ability to love, believe and trust. I hope we all find the best of what is possible and find justice, so that we all live well.

—Joseph P. Smith

The Key to My Neighbor's House: Seeking Justice in Bosnia and Rwanda

Written by Elizabeth Neuffer

Reviewed by Mary Au

The idea of victimization on a large scale was little understood in this country before the events of last fall. For most Americans, it was safer and easier to think of victims and victimization on a more individual scale that occurred more often as the exception than the rule. Wars were fought on battlefields and not in individual communities. In her book, *The Key to My Neighbor's House: Seeking Justice in Bosnia and Rwanda*, Elizabeth Neuffer pulls that myth apart and shows how the concept of war has evolved throughout the

world to include not only soldiers, but the destruction and punishment of civilians. The universality of the reasons given by perpetrators and the feelings generated by these acts are evident throughout the book, be it pertaining to mass homicides or rape.

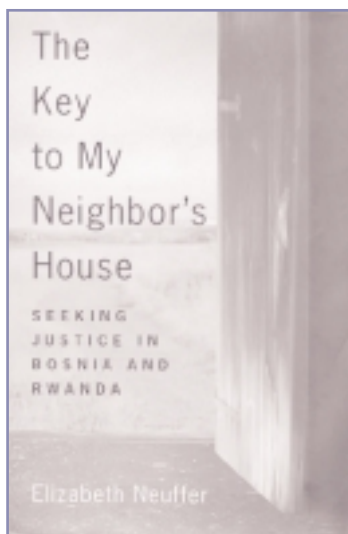
In the 1990's *Boston Globe* correspondent Elizabeth Neuffer was sent on assignment to cover what was deemed a civil war in the former Yugoslavia. She recounts her experiences in Bosnia and later in Rwanda, following both countries' stories through to the

Tutsi people become more common and more violent. "The incessant propaganda, mixing truth with rumor, myth or outright falsehood, cleverly stirred up all the age-old resentments and fears....Radio Mille Collines, the private extremist Hutu radio station, was more inflammatory. 'Finish them off, exterminate them, sweep them out of our country!....Just look at one person, their physique, and their physical appearance, look at their cute little nose, and then break it.'"

We follow Witness JJ's path as she is forced to flee the only home she has known, and to lose her baby boy. We feel her desperation and complete loss of hope when she realizes that the only person who can save her and the other Tutsi women, Jean-Paul Akayesu, the town mayor, chooses to deliver her to savage rapists and killers in order to save his political career. "[Jean-Paul Akayesu] knew that his political career depended on one thing: joining the genocide....It was risky to return, she [Witness JJ] knew, but she trusted Akayesu. She had known him ever since she was a girl.... [She and a group of ten other Tutsi refugees] returned to the Bureau Communale, where they confronted Akayesu. They told him that they were too tired to run anymore, that they could no longer bear the uncertainty of knowing if they were refugees, protected by him, or targets, hunted by the Interahamwe....the Interahamwe standing nearby turned on the group and started beating them."

Elizabeth Neuffer makes it clear that it was the hesitation of the Western World to react to clear and urgent pleas and warnings that allowed the genocide in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia to occur. The lack of action on the part of government agencies has been high-

Justice after such horrors is imperfect, slow, and frustrating....There is no easy means to achieve it; just the human will to try.



International Tribunals in 2001. Along her journey, she weaves in the experiences and histories of victims, perpetrators, doctors, tribunal lawyers and judges to deliver an eye-opening and heartbreaking account of the events in these two societies.

Neuffer provides insight as to how a community can be transformed from a group of peaceful and rational individuals to bearers of hate and indiscriminate killers. This question has weighed heavily on the minds of many Americans as we hear daily of seemingly random and mindless suicide bombings while on our journey to recover from our own inexplicable collective victimization.

Among Neuffer's stories is that of a timid Tutsi woman, known simply by her Tribunal name, Witness JJ. This is a woman who was forced to endure unimaginable horrors and emerged from these atrocities to continue with her life. We read about her growing apprehension as she listened to the hate propaganda urging Hutu citizens to 'take back' their country from the

lighted in recent headlines with respect to the tragedy that befell our nation on September 11th and whether it could have been avoided. One of the most difficult aspects of this book to digest was the complete reluctance of the world communities to respond to either situation until it was much too late. Neuffer is not afraid to voice the question of accountability on the part of the United Nations staff, who repeatedly dismissed pleas for help from citizens and their own peacekeepers. She recounts the frustrations of General Dallaire, who repeatedly begged the UN for the troops promised him to stop the Rwandan massacres." Restricted by the UN to discussing only his own experiences of the genocide, not UN matters, Dallaire openly wept on the stand as he spoke of not having enough troops to halt the killing. "I am adamant that entire regions of Rwanda could have been saved from the killings," the downcast general testified. 'If we had had a force that could have convinced them it was riskier to go to the barricades than stay at home, we could have stopped it.'"

Neuffer also revisits the Srebrenica massacre, where the Peacekeepers abandoned thousands of people who were pleading for protection. "...the UN peacekeepers looked on as the rebel Serbs led the men to a white house not far from the UN gate....Some of the men, placed on a waiting truck, begged the UN soldiers for help. 'You know these people are going to kill us and you are not doing anything about it,' they said, tears streaming down their cheeks. The Dutch UN peacekeepers stared at the ground...Later, a Dutch UN official would say the experience was like watching a cross between the movies *Sophie's Choice* and *Schindler's List*." Neuffer underscores the feelings

of betrayal, pain and guilt that survivors of the massacre experienced. Hasan, a Bosnian Muslim spared from the executions due to the fact that he was a UN translator, expressed his feelings over the incident. "And if they [Bosnian Serbs] could do it again, they would. But that's nothing compared with what the UN did. The Serbs were just sharks. The UN had a lifeboat, and they threw out all the passengers who didn't have tickets to the sharks swimming in the sea."

Neuffer continues her tale from there, explaining the tedious and arduous process of creating the tribunals to try the perpetrators of the genocide. She details how bureaucracy and politics continually undermined the effectiveness of this court and delayed its actions. She writes how the tribunals were "strangled by a huge bureaucracy; driven by political infighting, nepotism and incompetence." The majority of victims in both societies were looking to this tribunal to assign culpability and to force the perpetrators to accept responsibility for their actions, but as is often the case, victims found themselves disillusioned with the process and cynical about the system devised to help them. People working with victims trying to wade their way within our court system on the quest for some justice could easily empathize and learn from the experiences of tribunal workers. "Could a tribunal case ever be all things to all people? ...Victims had one view of the proceedings and what they would accomplish, whereas prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges had others."

The need for these courts to exist becomes crystal clear as the book follows Witness JJ to her testimony before the tribunal. Scared and modest,

Witness JJ was able to gain some peace by confronting Akayesu, the man who had violated her trust and allowed others to violate her body in unspeakable ways. The strength and courage she gained in facing the predator who had allowed her rape and torture has kept her spirit alive as she continues her day-to-day struggle to survive. "Some years later she would tell me how frightened she had been to board a plane and leave Rwanda and to confront Akayesu in court in Tanzania, where the tribunal was located. But her fear gave way to relief and a satisfaction that has stayed with her to this day."

Although the tragedies of Bosnia and Rwanda have slipped from most American headlines, the relevance of this book in the wake of recent events has not faded. The dream that World War II Nazi Germany was unique is one that, as this book shows, does nothing more than prevent a more proactive approach by world leaders. The past year illustrates how we can no longer subscribe to the idea of diplomatic isolationism without dire consequences both here at home and—as this book poignantly notes—on foreign soil as well.

There is no real closure in this book, as there has not been closure in the lives of those affected by these two parallel tragedies. Neuffer has created a piece of work that should be read by anyone trying to understand victimization on a mass scale, or searching to comprehend a little bit of our increasingly complicated role in the international community.

Mary Au is the Director of Administration and Finance at MOVA. She worked previously at The Women's Lunch Place, an organization that assists women and children who are poor and homeless.

New Law Requires Certification of Court-Ordered Batterer Intervention Programs

The Massachusetts Legislature approved changes to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 209A requiring that batterer's intervention programs ordered by the courts shall be certified by the state Department of Public Health. The changes also require that for any violation of a 209A restraining order, the court must order the defendant to complete a state-certified batterer's intervention program unless the judge issues written findings detailing the reasons for not doing so or unless the batterer's intervention program determines that the defendant is not suitable for intervention. The legislation specifically states that the courts cannot order substance abuse or anger management treatment or any other form of treatment as a substitute for certified batterer's intervention. The legislature approved the changes during the budget process.

VOCA Funding Faces Cuts Due to Cap

Continued capping of the Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Fund, along with changes made to VOCA through the enactment of the USA Patriot Act will mean a 13-to-15 percent funding cut this year in Massachusetts and elsewhere. Facing this dramatic loss of funds—between 1.1 and 1.3 million dollars—MOVA once again reached out to the Massachusetts Congressional delegation, who wrote a joint letter to Congressional Appropriators urging an increase of the VOCA cap. MOVA also made personal visits to most of the Massachusetts delegation accompanied by a constituent receiving victim services and that constituent's provider at each meeting. For more information on what you can do to help increase the VOCA cap, call Stefanie Fleischer Seldin, MOVA's Policy Analyst, at 617-727-7885.

SJC Denies Rape Victim Standing in 1985 Case

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) rejected a victim's request for formal legal standing in her assailant's case after he was convicted of two counts of rape but did not serve any of his ten-year sentence. The SJC's decision in *Hagan v. Commonwealth, et al* did describe the criminal case as fraught with inexcusable delays, and said that crime victims have a right to address the court when they feel a case is not proceeding quickly enough.

MOVA Launches Web Site

The Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA) launched a new Web site, www.mass.gov/mova, featuring resources and information for victims and providers. Visitors to the site can find free help and support, link to VOCA-funded programs, read the latest crime victim news, and learn about MOVA's legislative agenda. VOCA program administrators can also download forms and guidelines. To offer feedback on the site or post information on the events calendar, contact Karen Dempsey, Community Education Coordinator, at (617) 727-9745 or Karen.Dempsey@state.ma.us.

Governor's Task Force on Sexual Assault and Abuse Holds Hearings

Governor Jane Swift's newly appointed Task Force on Sexual Assault and Abuse held regional public hearings throughout Massachusetts. The hearings explored the pervasiveness of child and adult sexual violence, barriers to reporting, access to services, and victims' experiences with the medical and legal systems. Those testifying included survivors and their families; rape crisis counselors and advocates; members of the medical community, law enforcement, and courts; district attorneys; sex offender treatment providers; child sexual abuse experts; and concerned citizens. The Task Force will submit a report and recommendations to the Governor in October.

Appeals Court Rules that Law Covers Computer Porn

The state Appeals Court ruled that existing state law prohibits the distribution of pornographic computer images to children.

Massachusetts judges had ruled previously that the law does not apply to computer images, and the state Senate passed a bill in March to close the potential loophole. The Court considered the appeal of William H. Washburn, a high school teacher convicted of molesting a student and showing the victim computer pornography, and found that the law's language prohibiting other types of images can also apply to computer images.

SJC Supports Restitution Ruling

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) upheld a judge's determination that a restitution award include property damage expenses on a conviction for assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon. The defendant in the criminal case, Scott K. McIntyre, had argued that by ordering such restitution in the absence of a conviction of a crime based on property damage the judge had exceeded the proper scope of a restitution order. The SJC upheld the judge's order, adopting the Florida Supreme Court's "less formulaic approach" which found that the scope of restitution is limited to "loss or damage [that] is causally connected to the offense and bears a significant relationship to the offense."

Britain Makes Sweeping Changes to Criminal Justice System

Britain announced significant changes to its criminal justice process, including elimination of the double-jeopardy rule, allowing hearsay evidence in court, letting jurors know of defendants' previous crimes, and committing dangerous sexual offenders indefinitely. The changes come at a time of increased crime levels and decreased public confidence in the criminal justice system. Officials described the changes as part of an effort to rebalance the system and give greater weight to victims' rights.

Hundreds of Colleges Fail to Comply with Clery Act

At least 437 universities and colleges have been found in violation of the federal Jeanne Clery Act since it was enacted 12 years ago according to a report from Security on Campus, Inc. The Clery Act requires postsecondary schools to report basic campus security information including campus crime statistics. It is named in memory of Jeanne Clery who was raped and murdered on the Lehigh University campus in 1986. Security on Campus, Inc., a non-profit advocacy organization, obtained information about the violations from the U.S. Department of Education under the Freedom of Information Act. For more information, access www.campusafety.org.

Colorado Requires Criminal Background Check for Name Change

Colorado enacted legislation requiring a criminal history check before courts can grant a name change. Applicants 14 years of age or older must provide the results of a fingerprint-based background check that includes arrests, conviction records, criminal dispositions from the Colorado Bureau of Investigations and the FBI, and any other criminal dispositions. The new law precludes courts from granting a name change if the petitioner has committed any felony or any crime as a juvenile that would constitute a felony if committed by an adult. The petitioner must also affirm in open court or provide an affidavit stating that he or she has never committed a felony in any state or under federal law.

Officials to pay \$1m in domestic abuse case

San Francisco authorities agreed to pay \$1 million to the family of a battered woman killed by her estranged husband after sheriff's deputies allegedly failed to enforce a restraining order against him. Sonoma County supervisors, without admitting negligence or wrongdoing, agreed to the settlement on the second day of a federal court trial. The victim's family said that, despite an active restraining order, officers ignored nearly 20 com-

plaints from Maria Teresa Macias and her employers that her husband was stalking her. The case set a legal precedent when the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that the family could try to prove that the county sheriff violated equal protection laws by ignoring her complaints because she was a woman, a Latina and a domestic violence victim.

Vermont Strengthens Restitution Law

The Vermont legislature strengthened the state's crime victim restitution law, requiring defendants to pay restitution at the time of sentencing unless the court finds, on the record, good cause for extension. If a defendant fails to comply with a restitution order, the victim, the state's victim service agency, the department of corrections, or the prosecutor's office may notify the court and the court must hold a hearing and take action. The law also requires deferment of any monies owed to the defendant by the state, such as tax refunds and lottery winnings, toward payment of the restitution. The new legislation followed a State Auditor's review that found the existing restitution system collected an average of only 13 cents for every dollar owed.

common among survivors as well as effective self-care and coping strategies. More importantly, we designed the group to allow for candid discussions of the unique experiences of those victimized by clergy including:

- church secrecy, silence and betrayal;
- the impact on the survivors' religious and spiritual development;
- the survivors' views of God as affected by clergy abuse;
- the use of the Bible and other Catholic beliefs and rituals as weapons of abuse;
- the grief associated with the possible alienation and disconnection from the culture of Roman Catholicism;
- the impact of widespread and continued media attention;
- the homophobia inherent in discussions that confuse sexual orientation and sexual violence.

The Need for Services for Men and Boys

One issue highlighted by this recent crisis is the need for services for men and boys who have been victimized. When the issues of rape and sexual assault are discussed and services are created, male survivors are often forgotten or ignored. Societal forces have created clear gender norms that often render the male survivor invisible. The media, our schools, our families and a host of other social institutions have created clear codes of masculinity and maleness. These codes proclaim how boys and men should and should not feel, as well as how boys and men should and should not act.

Boys and men are told that they should never feel sad or scared or nervous or vulnerable. They are told that they should never cry, reach out for support or talk about their pain. Rather, they

are told that they must be strong and self-reliant, unemotional and always in control. These codes imply that "real" boys and "real" men are never victims of violent crime. When they *are* victims of violence, their maleness is called into question, and their victimization is often seen as their own personal failure.

These rigid gender expectations have taken on incredible power and meaning and have thus affected how both service providers and male victims themselves view victimization. Law enforcement officers, criminal justice system personnel and human service professionals do not always look behind the myths and recognize that boys and men are often victims of sexual violence. Men are often told that they are to blame for their own victimization and that only women can be true victims of sexual violence. The messages, then, for the male survivor are:

- (1) he was not truly victimized; rather, the incident was simply the victim's own mistake or misjudgment;
- (2) he will not be understood by people who are in positions to offer him assistance;
- (3) he is a "weak" man, or no man at all (thus, like a woman or a gay man—people often perceived as not demonstrating stereotypically "masculine" characteristics such as strength and the ability to care for and protect oneself).

These messages are often internalized by the male survivor. The legacy is a man who blames himself for being raped or sexually assaulted, who feels that he must suffer in silence because no one will understand him, and who has been victimized not only by a perpetrator, but also by a sexist and homophobic society that declares that anyone who does not fit a narrow and

stereotypical definition of strength is weak.

The need for sensitive services for male survivors is quite clear. Truly effective services for boys and men incorporate the specific dynamics of male survivors:

- discussions around how the male's view of his masculinity/maleness is affected by the victimization;
- conversations about how sexual identity development may be interrupted;
- an awareness of the need for emotional expression to be integrated into cognitive discussions;
- explorations of feelings of shame and self-blame;
- concrete and action-oriented healing strategies;
- development of an understanding of self-care;
- an acceptance of vulnerability.

Men who are provided opportunities to heal in authentic and deeply personal ways free of social expectations have expressed strong desires to connect with others. They are able to discuss their desires to be in loving relationships with partners, families and friends and to treat all people fairly. Moreover, they demonstrate a commitment to carefully lowering their internal barriers to intimacy. Male survivors who are given sensitive opportunities to heal have shown that they want to build new relationships.

No Correlation Exists Between Sexual Orientation and Sexual Violence

In media discussions about the rape and sexual assault of children by clergy, the issue of sexual orientation has often been a focus. The press has often reported the sexual abuse in ways that describe the perpetrators as gay men. The implication is quite clear: gay

men are sexual deviants who prey on children. This false image of gay men as sexual predators fuels the flames of bigotry, bias and misunderstanding.

Experts on child sexual abuse state that gay and heterosexual adults do not have different patterns regarding the sexual abuse of children. They stress that there is no scientific data to support the widely-held stereotype that gay men prey on children at rates greater than do heterosexual men. In addition, the “gay male predator” perspective on the current crisis assumes without foundation that all of the clergy members who perpetrated identify as gay men.

Underlying these assumptions and stereotypes are myths and misconceptions linking sexual orientation and sexual violence. Sexual orientation refers to physical and emotional attraction; it has nothing inherently to do with violence. The expression of sexual orientation is rooted in desire and affection; the expression of sexual violence is rooted in coercion and the abuse of power. Sexual violence has nothing at all to do with sexual attraction.

Drawing false connections between sexual violence and sexual orientation is demeaning to the survivors of the abuse. There is an underlying belief that the men who were raped or assaulted while teens were simply the sex partners of gay men. This is not so. Rather, they were the victims of men who used the power of their respected positions to manipulate, violate and hurt children.

Similarly, the linking of sexual violence and sexual orientation renders female survivors of clergy abuse invisible. There are female survivors, though we have not heard as much about their

victimization. Services must also be created, perhaps through existing rape and sexual assault services, that reflect the specific dynamics of clergy abuse on female survivors.

The current crisis in the Roman Catholic Church can further divide our communities. It can be used to drive a wedge between gay people and heterosexual people, between male and female survivors, and between men and women working to end sexual violence. We must not allow this to happen. Rather, let this crisis unite us as we continue to work towards a common goal of healing and connection for all victims.

Dave Shannon, LICSW, has over 12 years of experience working with boys and men who have been victims of trauma. He currently is a therapist both at Fenway Community Health and in private practice. He also provides clinical consultation, training and education services around gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) youth and anti-violence issues. Dave is the former coordinator of the Violence Recovery Program (VRP) at Fenway, and the VRP serves GLBT victims of hate crimes, domestic violence, sexual assault, and police harassment throughout Massachusetts.

Resources for Victims

For a list of VOCA-funded programs that provide free services to survivors of sexual abuse, contact Sandra Gimenez Field, MOVA's Victim Services Coordinator, at (617) 727-9752 or Sandra.G.Field@state.ma.us or visit www.mass.gov/mova. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list and we encourage other agencies and providers who are offering these services to contact MOVA with details.



Janet Fine Receives National Leadership Award for Children's Advocacy

Janet Fine, Executive Director of MOVA and former Director of the Suffolk County Children's Advocacy Center, was recently honored by the National Children's Alliance (NCA) as the recipient of the NCA Professional Leadership Award. The award is given to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in the establishment, continuation or success of a Children's Advocacy Center. Stephen Kerrigan, Policy Director to U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy, presented Janet with the award during a Congressional Luncheon and Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C. Also pictured, on right, is Congressman Bud Cramer (D-Alabama) who founded the National Children's Advocacy Center in Huntsville in 1985.

BULLETIN BOARD

In Upcoming Issues

Focus

Responding to Victims of
Crime with Disabilities

On Beacon Hill
The Governor's Task Force
on Sexual Assault and Abuse:
An Update

Victim and Witness Assistance Board Meetings

The Victim and Witness Assistance Board will vary locations of its 2002 meeting dates to increase opportunities for attendance from the community. For information on the next scheduled meeting, call MOVA at (617) 727-5200.

SAFEPLAN Advocacy Training

A free SAFEPLAN training for advocates in Bristol, Barnstable and Plymouth Counties will be held November 6, 7, 13 & 14 at the Plymouth Public library from 9am to 4pm each day. For information call Freddi Carbone, MOVA's SAFEPLAN Regional Coordinator, at (508) 833-7943.

National Center for Victims of Crime Training Institute

The National Center for Victims of Crime brings its 2002 Training Institute to New England on November 5-6, 2002. Topics include teen victims, vicarious traumatization, terrorism, stalking, male survivors, and the state of victims' rights. Registration for the two-day event is \$105, or \$80 for National Center members. The training takes place at the Quality Inn King's Grant in Danvers. Call (202) 467-8755 or access www.ncvc.org for more information.

New England Rural Domestic Violence Forum

A training and networking opportunity for Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement grant recipients and others working in the field of domestic violence in rural communities throughout New England will take place November 5-6, 2002, in Northampton. For more information contact Amy Waldman or Chase at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, (413) 586-7525, or at se.chase@state.ma.us or Amywaldman@state.ma.us.

Responding to Family Violence and Injury: The Important Health Provider Link

The Harrell Center of the University of South Florida sponsors this 6th Annual Meeting of the Minds Conference at the Embassy Suites Hotel USF in Tampa, December 5-6, 2002. For more information, contact the Center at (813) 974-6695 or at conted@hsc.usf.edu, or visit www.publichealth.usf.edu/conted.

Collaboration & Coalition Building in Violence Prevention

The National Funding Collaborative on Violence Prevention holds its 2nd Immersion Training in Washington, DC, December 12-14, 2002. For more information, please call (202) 393-7731, Email nfcvp@nfcvp.org, or visit the web site: www.peacebeyondviolence.org.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.



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